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FIFTH COMMITTEE
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 68th MEETING

Chairman: MR. HADID (Algeria)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

OTHER MATTERS

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued) (A/C.5/48/L.71 and L.73)

Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.71

1. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh), Rapporteur, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.71, entitled "Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development", and said that since it was a consensus resolution he would recommend that the Committee should adopt it without a vote.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

3. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.71 was adopted without a vote.

4. Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Tunisia), supported by Mr. STITT (United Kingdom), sought assurances from the Controller that the Secretariat would be in a position to prepare the draft programme budget section requested under paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.71.

5. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Secretariat had already started preparing the draft programme budget section requested in paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.721 and that it would be ready no later than 10 July 1994. The Secretariat was doing its utmost to meet deadlines and to provide all the reports of the Secretary-General to the Committee.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of that phase of the agenda item and requested the Rapporteur to report thereon direct to the General Assembly.

Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.73

7. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.73, entitled "Decentralization of activities and resources in the fields of energy and natural resources", and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

9. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.73 was adopted without a vote.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of the item, and he requested the Rapporteur to report thereon to the General Assembly.

OTHER MATTERS

11. Mr. MADDENS (Belgium), reporting on informal consultations with respect to the preparation of a draft resolution on agenda item 121 "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", said that nine meetings had been held to date and that work would continue with a view to the adoption of a consensus text.

12. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) asked whether the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had completed its review of the report on staff assessment and when that report and that issue would be put on the Fifth Committee's agenda. He also wondered whether the Secretariat could not prevail upon the Board of Auditors to provide the Fifth Committee with a brief interim report on the status of the special audit of peace-keeping procurement. Concerning the disappearance of $3.9 million in cash from one peace-keeping operation, it would be in the best interests of the United Nations for the Secretariat to provide Member States with the information that it had gathered so far on the matter.

13. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Advisory Committee's review of the report on staff assessment had already taken place. Concerning the matter of the missing funds raised by the United States delegation, it was still under investigation and he hoped that the Secretariat would soon be in a position to report officially thereon.

14. Mrs. RODRIQUEZ (Cuba), referring to administrative instruction ST/AI/395 of 2 June 1994 on appointments of limited duration, urged the Secretariat to explain at the next formal meeting why it had apparently disregarded the Fifth Committee's decision on the matter.

The meeting rose at 4.06 p.m.